

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3998 was introduced by Representative MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM and directs the GSA to transfer the old Federal post office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation in exchange for its fair market value.

The Amy Biehl High School Foundation runs a public charter school that was founded in 1999 and has been residing in the GSA-owned old Federal post office building since 2006. Currently, the public charter school has a long-term lease with the GSA for nominal rent.

GSA has determined that it would be best to remove the building from their inventory because the building does not generate significant revenue for the agency. In addition, the current lease is not consistent with GSA's mission.

The charter school has been working with GSA on transferring the building's ownership to the foundation since 2007. Today's bill, Mr. Speaker, will allow that transfer to happen very quickly, while protecting the taxpayers' interests.

I also want to take a moment to talk about Amy Biehl and the inspiration for this great charter school. Amy was a 26-year-old Fulbright Scholar working in South Africa when she was tragically attacked and killed in 1993.

Amy's parents refused to allow their daughter's violent death to become her legacy. Instead, Linda and Peter Biehl started a foundation to build on their daughter's work toward peace, reconciliation, and multiculturalism. The school in New Mexico builds on this work.

Approving this bill, Mr. Speaker, to transfer the lease at its fair market value will simply promote Amy's legacy and benefit taxpayers.

I support this bill, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Ms. LUJAN GRISHAM).

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues from Indiana and Pennsylvania very much for their support on this bill.

I rise today, of course, in support of my bill, H.R. 3998, which would direct, as you have heard, the General Services Administration to sell, for fair market value, the historic post office building in downtown Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

As you have also heard, the charter school is named after a young Fulbright Scholar from Santa Fe who was, in fact, tragically killed in South Africa in 1993 while working to end apartheid.

The high school is located in the heart of downtown Albuquerque. It is a few blocks away from a public library, a historical city theater, and a robust transportation center.

Fifty-five percent of the students receive free or reduced lunch, 64 percent of the students will be the first generation to attend college, and 70 percent of the students represent minority families in New Mexico. In fact, this school primarily serves at-risk youth.

The school's central location ensures that all of the students have access to transportation and allows the school to partner with nearby businesses and nonprofits to collaborate on community projects.

The Amy Biehl High School holds an impressive track record, with 99 percent of its graduates enrolling directly into college, and has been a recipient of several awards.

In 2000, the school was designated as one of 20 Mentor Schools in the Nation by the Coalition of Essential Schools. In 2006, the high school also won the National Trust for Historic Preservation Award.

The school has leased the old post office at the corner of Fourth and Gold in downtown and has held the lease from GSA since 2006. Currently, this lease is for a term of 60 years. The building was built in 1908 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties.

The Amy Biehl High School moved into the old post office, which sat unoccupied for 6 years, and they were able to raise and invest more than \$3 million in Federal, State, and private funds to renovate and restore the building for use as a school.

Selling the building to the high school provides the school with greater autonomy. It opens the door to capital campaigns and creates a permanent home for the school and the students.

The Amy Biehl High School Foundation and the GSA have determined that transferring ownership of the building is, in fact, in the best interest of both entities, the Federal Government and the school.

I would like to thank Senator TOM UDALL for working with me on this bill, and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation that will help the Amy Biehl High School continue to provide Albuquerque students with a first-rate education, while also preserving a historic piece of downtown Albuquerque.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to put a plug in for charter schools period. The Amy Biehl school is an example of what can be done under charter schools and how it does serve a purpose.

We have been very successful in the State of Alaska with our charter schools, and I think it is crucially important to understand that sometimes other schools can fulfill that gap.

Apparently, this one does a good job, according to the young lady that spon-

sored the bill and the gentleman that is managing this bill. But let's just remember that when education is failing, then we have to look for other alternatives, and this is a classic alternative.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3998, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1530

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1541

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) at 3 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.

PFC FLOYD K. LINDSTROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3375) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3375

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PFC FLOYD K. LINDSTROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, shall be known and designated as the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) each will control 20 minutes.